



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 904

January Session, 2015



AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) The Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs shall establish, within available resources, a
3 Connecticut women veterans' program to (1) conduct outreach to
4 women veterans for the purpose of improving awareness of eligibility
5 for federal and state veterans' benefits and services; (2) conduct
6 assessments of the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits
7 and services; (3) review programs, research projects and other
8 initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of Connecticut's
9 women veterans; (4) submit recommendations for improving benefits
10 and services available to women veterans to the Commissioner of
11 Veterans' Affairs and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
12 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
13 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military
14 and veterans' affairs on January 15, 2016, and annually thereafter; and
15 (5) incorporate women veterans' issues in strategic planning
16 concerning benefits and services. The commissioner may adopt
17 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes to
18 supplement and implement the provisions of this section. For the
19 purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who was
20 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from

- 21 active service in the armed forces and "armed forces" has the same
22 meaning as provided in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
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VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*